

Water District 120
Annual meeting minutes

Snake River Motel
Blackfoot Idaho
April 22, 2002

The meeting convened at 2:10 p.m.

Karl Dreher, director of Idaho Department of Water Resources, provided background about the formation of the water districts and stipulated agreements that signed last November. He explained that, under Idaho law, as director of IDWR, he is authorized to divide the state into water districts to distribute water among appropriators whose water rights have been adjudicated. He further explained his authority to administer those water rights not adjudicated is granted by the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court on an interim basis when it is deemed necessary to protect senior water rights.

On August 3, 2001 in the midst of a two-year drought (now in its 3rd year), the director established the American Falls Ground Water Management Area and the Thousand Springs Ground Water Management Area. In establishing the ground water management areas, the director stated his intent to curtail diversions under certain junior groundwater rights that cause significant depletion to hydraulically connected surface water sources. Over 90,000 irrigated acres within 3 to 6 miles of the Snake River from Bliss to Twin Falls and from Rupert to Blackfoot, Idaho faced possible curtailment.

On August 31, 2001 representatives from both junior priority groundwater users and senior priority surface water users advised the director that agreements in principal had been reached between the two groups. The agreements are intended to prevent curtailment of junior water rights and require ground water users to provide replacement water to senior surface water users for the next two irrigation seasons equaling the proposed amount of curtailment water.

After August 31st, the designated representatives from both ground and surface water users entered into three detailed stipulated agreements that the director approved. Under the agreements, senior surface water users agreed not to exercise their priority rights against junior ground water users in exchange for commitments by the groundwater districts to provide specific quantities of replacement water during the two-year period covered by the stipulated agreement. If unable to provide replacement water, junior ground water users agreed to reduce diversions in an equal amount.

Those reductions are based on a percentage for each ground water management area. In the two groundwater districts north of Twin Falls, a 10% reduction in acreage or electrical usage based on water diverted will be implemented if replacement water is not provided, resulting in approximately 20,000 acres not being irrigated. In the three groundwater districts north of American Falls Reservoir, a 15% reduction in acreage or electrical usage will be implemented if replacement water is not provided, affecting approximately 52,000 acres.

Lynn Tominaga, executive director of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc, explained the formation of the steering committee that helped develop recommendations to the department regarding the formation of the water districts and their administration. He then outlined the four items of business to be undertaken at this meeting that included:

- 1) Election or appointment of a temporary chairman and secretary.
- 2) Election of a water master.
- 3) Approval of resolutions to operate the WD 120 between now and the next annual meeting.
- 4) Election of advisory committee and its members

Nominations were opened for a temporary chairman and secretary. Don Hale moved that Tim Luke be elected temporary chairman. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. Tim took control as temporary chairman of the Water District 120 meeting.

Bill Taylor nominated Lynn Tominaga as temporary secretary for the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved on a voice vote. Lynn began recording the minutes.

In the next order of business, the membership reviewed and approved the resolutions submitted by the department relating to the formation and administration of the water district. The membership elected to review all the resolutions at the same time.

Steve Howser moved to accept the resolutions as amended. Dane Watkins seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote. (see attached copy of adopted resolutions)

The next order of business was the election of the Advisory Committee and its members. Tim explained that the steering committee's recommendation was for the advisory committee to have nine members. He further explained two ways to elect the advisory committee. The entire membership could vote on the advisory committee's make up OR the membership could take recommendations from each sub-district that would make up the advisory committee.

After lengthy discussion, Steve Howser moved and it was seconded by Don Hale that a 15 minute caucus be held so the sub-districts could decide on the members from each sub-district. Motion passed on a voice vote. The membership recessed at 4:15. Tim reconvened the annual meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Sub-district 1 nominated Tim Deeg, Kevin Michaelson, and Ray Duffin as members of the advisory committee and Richard Maier as the alternate.

Sub-district 2 nominated Scott Clawson, Gaylon Van Orden, and Craig Evans as members to the advisory committee with Neil Powell as the alternate.

Sub-district 3 nominated Bill Taylor, Dane Watkins, and Walter Gay as members of the 120 advisory committee with Stephanie Mickelson as alternate.

After some discussion, it was moved by Don Hale and seconded by Neil Powell, to accept the caucus recommendations as the members of the advisory committee for WD 120. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Tominaga
Temporary Secretary